IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of providing text-to-speech services, the method comprising the steps of:

splitting a text into segments that include anticipated-content segments and unanticipated-content segments,

wherein each of the anticipated-content segments have previously satisfied criteria for being pre-recorded, and

wherein each of the unanticipated-content segments are not within the anticipated-content segments;

generating speech for said anticipated-content segments based on pre-recorded sound recordings that correspond to said anticipated-content segments; [[and]]

generating speech for said unanticipated-content segments using speech synthesis;

monitoring usage of a particular segment of said segments by said text-to-speech services,

wherein said particular segment is one of an anticipated-content-segment and an unanticipated-content-segment; and

based on the usage of said particular segment by said text-to-speech services, recategorizing said particular segment to the other of said anticipated-content-segment and said unanticipated-content-segment.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 comprising the steps of storing usage statistics that identify which segments are contained in texts that are translated using said text-to-speech services.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of at least a set of said segments.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein:
the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of unanticipated-content segments; and
the method includes the step of selecting, based on said usage statistics, a set of unanticipated-content segments for which to make recordings.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the step of selecting a set of unanticipated-content segments includes selecting a set of unanticipated-content segments that were most frequently used during a time period.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein:
the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of anticipated-content segments; and
the method includes the steps of
selecting a set of anticipated-content segments based on said usage statistics; and
removing recordings associated with the selected anticipated-content segments.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the step of selecting a set of anticipated-content segments includes selecting a set of anticipated-content segments that were least frequently used during a period of time.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
recording a plurality of recordings for a particular anticipated-segment;
storing data that indicates rules for selecting between said plurality of recordings; and
when said text contains said particular anticipated-content segment, applying the rules indicated in said data to select one of said plurality of recordings; and

generating speech for said particular anticipated-segment using said selected recording.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein:
the text is from a particular source; and
the step of applying the rules includes determining which of said plurality of recordings to select based at least in part on identity of said particular source.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein:
the text is from one of a plurality of text sources managed by a plurality of parties; and
the text-to-speech services are provided by a host, separate from said plurality of parties, that is connected to said text sources over a network system.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 wherein the text sources are web pages that contain text, and said network system is the World Wide Web.

12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 8 wherein:
the particular anticipated-content segment appears in a particular context within said text; and
the step of applying the rules includes determining which of said plurality of recordings to select based at least in part on said particular context.

13. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying instructions for providing text-to-speech services, the instructions including instructions for performing the steps of:
splitting a text into segments that include anticipated-content segments and unanticipated-content segments,

wherein each of the anticipated-content segments have previously satisfied criteria for being pre-recorded, and

wherein each of the unanticipated-content segments are not within the anticipated-content segments;

generating speech for said anticipated-content segments based on pre-recorded sound recordings that correspond to said anticipated-content segments; [[and]]

generating speech for said unanticipated-content segments using speech synthesis,

monitoring usage of a particular segment of said segments by said text-to-speech services,

wherein said particular segment is one of an anticipated-content-segment and an unanticipated-content-segment; and

based on the usage of said particular segment by said text-to-speech services, recategorizing said particular segment to the other of said anticipated-content-segment and said unanticipated-content-segment.

14. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13 comprising the steps of storing usage statistics that identify which segments are contained in texts that are translated using said text-to-speech services.

15. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 14 wherein the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of at least a set of said segments.

16. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein:

the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of unanticipated-content segments; and

the computer-readable medium includes the step of selecting, based on said usage statistics, a set of unanticipated-content segments for which to make recordings.

17. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 16 wherein the step of selecting a set of unanticipated-content segments includes selecting a set of unanticipated-content segments that were most frequently used during a time period.

18. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein:
the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of anticipated-content segments; and
the computer-readable medium includes the steps of
selecting a set of anticipated-content segments based on said usage statistics; and
removing recordings associated with the selected anticipated-content segments.

19. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 18 wherein the step of selecting a set of anticipated-content segments includes selecting a set of anticipated-content segments that were least frequently used during a period of time.

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13 further comprising the steps of:
recording a plurality of recordings for a particular anticipated-segment;
storing data that indicates rules for selecting between said plurality of recordings; and
when said text contains said particular anticipated-content segment, applying the rules indicated in said data to select one of said plurality of recordings; and
generating speech for said particular anticipated-segment using said selected recording.

21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 20 wherein:
the text is from a particular source; and

the step of applying the rules includes determining which of said plurality of recordings to select based at least in part on identity of said particular source.

22. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 20 wherein:

the particular anticipated-content segment appears in a particular context within said text; and

the step of applying the rules includes determining which of said plurality of recordings to select based at least in part on said particular context.